

# BUILD YOUR OWN BUTTERFLY GARDEN



Pearl Crescent Butterfly

**Butterflies are beautiful creatures to have around your home. Here's how to attract them**

**By Mya Jee and Mikayla Runciman**

Mrs. Larocque's Grade 5 Class, St. Brother Andre Catholic Elementary School, Gloucester, Ont.

**H**ow many times have you seen a spring azure butterfly? Personally, I have yet to see one fly past my house or soar across the sky. Certain types of butterflies aren't very common in certain parts of Canada — but you may see them if you plant a butterfly garden.

To create your own butterfly garden, plant flowers that different butterflies like. You can also plant certain flowers for butterflies to lay their eggs. Here's a list to help you get started.

### Some Favourite Flowers for Adult Butterflies

- **Monarch:** Goldenrod
- **Pearl Crescent:** Thistle
- **Spring Azure:** Centaury
- **Checkered Skipper:** Knapweed
- **Clouded Sulphur:** Phlox
- **European Cabbage:** Mint
- **Gray Hairstreak:** Clover

### Some Favourite Flowers for Caterpillars

- **Monarch:** Milkweed
- **Pearl Crescent:** Aster
- **Spring Azure:** Dogwood
- **Checkered Skipper:** Hollyhock
- **Clouded Sulphur:** Alfalfa
- **European Cabbage:** Cabbage
- **Gray Hairstreak:** Hibiscus



### A Special Message From the WILD team

Did you know CWF encourages people to create butterfly gardens? That's right. We've got loads of info. Here are some tips to get you started.

- Choose a sunny spot that is sheltered from the wind
- Plant different kinds of flowers to attract the greatest variety of butterflies
- If you only have a smaller area to work in, try filling some containers with nectar-rich flowers
- Choose native plants with lots of nectar instead of exotic flowers
- Include a mixture of plants in your garden so that it will bloom from spring to fall
- Plant lots of plants of the same species so that you'll get the attention of passing butterflies
- Be sure to include plants that are homes for the larvae of butterflies in your area
- Put out shallow dishes of water on hot summer days so that butterflies don't get thirsty
- Create basking spots for butterflies by putting a few flat stones in sunny, sheltered parts of your garden
- Let part of your garden grow wild. Old leaves, fallen logs or piles of brush give adult butterflies a safe place to hibernate
- Don't clean up your garden until spring so that you don't harm pupae that spend the winters on plant stems
- If you want more details, head to our website and download our info sheet. Go to [CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/butterfly](http://CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/butterfly).

### Did You Know?

- ★ Canada has 292 species of butterflies
- ★ There are around 24,000 species of butterflies worldwide
- ★ Butterflies are the second-largest group of pollinators
- ★ Butterflies taste with their feet
- ★ The largest threat to butterflies is loss of habitat
- ★ Top speeds for butterfly flight is 19 kilometres per hour

PHOTOS BY ROBERT MCCAW

